



# Media Fairness Initiative

## A Look at Bias in the News

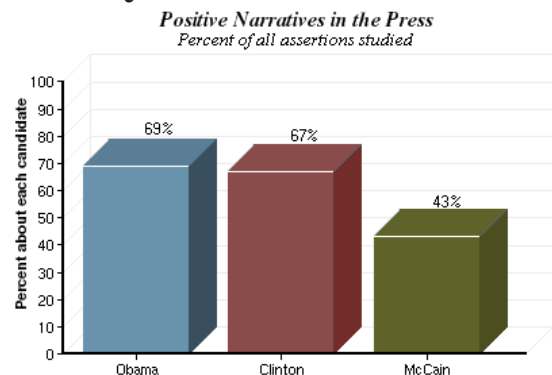


### Media Portray Democrats More Favorably Than McCain 6/4/08

The media have portrayed Democrats Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton far more favorably than Republican John McCain since the beginning of this year, according to a new study by the nonpartisan Project for Excellence in Journalism and Harvard University's Shorenstein Center.

**The study, which examined coverage of the candidates' character, history, leadership, and appeal, found that close to 70 percent of all stories depicted Obama and Clinton in a positive way, while just 43 percent of stories showed McCain in a positive light.**

And while 57 percent of stories about McCain were "critical," just 33 percent of stories about Clinton and 31 percent about Obama were negative.



### NY Times Misrepresents President's Position on G.I. Bill

A New York Times editorial last week claimed that "President Bush opposes a new G.I. Bill of Rights." In fact, the President supports such legislation.

The newspaper was referring to one particular version of the bill drafted by Sens. Jim Webb and Chuck Hagel. The President supports a version proposed by Sens. Lindsey Graham, Richard Burr, and John McCain because of the different ways in which it deals with education benefits.

"Though readers of *The New York Times* editorial page wouldn't know it, President Bush looks forward to signing a GI bill that supports our troops and their families," the White House said.



### Former Network Reporter Joins Obama Campaign

Linda Douglass, a longtime network news correspondent who most recently worked as an editor at *The National Journal*, has announced that she is joining Sen. Barack Obama's presidential campaign as a traveling strategist and spokeswoman.

When Obama won his Senate seat in 2004, Douglass appeared on ABC and predicted, "He's going to be received by the Democrats as a conquering hero." During a break from working as a journalist in 2007, Douglass helped prepare Obama for an upcoming presidential debate.

"I just thought I couldn't possibly sit on the sidelines any more," Douglass recently told *The New York Times*.